

Comment on the proposed placement of HYDROBIIDAE Troschel, 1857 (Mollusca, Gastropoda) on the Official List of Family-Group Names
(Case 2699; see BZN 47: 104–109)

Alfred F. Newton, Jr. & Margaret K. Thayer

Department of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605, U.S.A.

One of the proposals in this application (BZN 47: 107, para. 13 (4)) is to place the family-group name HYDROBIIDAE Troschel, 1857 (type genus *Hydrobia* Hartmann, 1821) on the Official List of Family-Group Names. However, this name is a junior homonym of HYDROBIIDAE Mulsant, 1844 (type genus *Hydrobius* Leach, 1815), a name in current use for a subfamily or tribe of HYDROPHILIDAE (Insecta: Coleoptera).

The name in Coleoptera was first proposed in French form as a 'branche' HYDROBIAIRES (Mulsant, 1844, p. 116), which was further divided into two 'rameaux', including HYDROBIATES (Mulsant, 1844, p. 117). The name was used again in French form as the tribe HYDROBIIDES by Lacordaire (1854, p. 454). It was apparently first latinized as HYDROBII by Fairmaire & Laboulbène (1855, p. 227). Since then, the name has come into general use for a large group of HYDROPHILIDAE, treated as either a tribe HYDROBIINI of the subfamily HYDROPHILINAE or a separate subfamily HYDROBIINAE; in both cases, subgroups are often recognized that include a subtribe HYDROBIINA or tribe HYDROBIINI, respectively. The family-group name has generally (but not universally) been attributed to Mulsant (1844), hence is available from that date (Article 11f(iii) of the Code).

Some representative monographs or general works showing usage of HYDROBIINAE, HYDROBIINI and/or HYDROBIINA as valid groups include LeConte (1861), Horn (1873), Bedel (1881), Kuwert (1890), Ganglbauer (1904), Reitter (1909), Knisch (1924), Orchymont (1942), Blackwelder (1944), Brues et al. (1954), Crowson (1955), Arnett (1963, 1985) and Hansen (1987). At the highest recently-used rank, HYDROBIINAE includes about 30 genera and over 700 described species, or about a third of the family HYDROPHILIDAE (Hansen, 1987). At this level, several alternative (but junior) family-group names based on included genera are available. At the lowest rank, however, the nominotypical subgroup (tribe or subtribe) has no available alternative family-group names (Hansen, 1990).

The Code (Article 55b) requires that cases of homonymy in family-group names resulting from type genera with similar (but not identical) names must be referred to the Commission for a ruling to either: (a) observe priority and replace the junior homonym (in this case, the gastropod HYDROBIIDAE Troschel, 1857), or (b) amend the stem of one of the generic names involved to remove the homonymy. Since we are not familiar with available junior synonyms or other potential solutions concerning the use of HYDROBIIDAE in Mollusca we refrain from making any specific proposal here, and refer this problem to malacologists for further action.

Until a specific proposal dealing with this homonymy is submitted to the Commission and a ruling made, we feel that HYDROBIIDAE Troschel, 1857 should not be placed on the Official List as proposed on BZN 47: 107.

The status of HYDROBIIDAE Troschel is not directly relevant to resolving the main problems addressed in Case 2699. The present comment illustrates a difficulty that may arise in applications designed to address other problems.

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